COLOR CORRECTED LASER ILLUMINATION SYSTEM FOR NIGHT VISION APPLICATIONS

Abstract of Disclosure

A lighting system for night vision applications including a near infrared light source, a visible light source, a beamsplitter and an optical element. The beamsplitter is arranged to reflect light emitting from either the near infrared light source or the visible light source and transmit light emitting from the other of the near infrared light source or visible light source so as to produce a color–corrected light source. The optical element is disposed a predetermined distance from the color–corrected light source. The optical element includes an input surface for receiving light from the color–corrected light source and an output surface for emitting the received light in a desired emission pattern. In one embodiment, each of the near infrared light source and visible light source is associated with respective first and second optical elements. The first and second optical elements are arranged such that the emission patterns of each optical element are substantially identical and overlapping to form a single color–corrected light emission pattern.